



Kentucky Department of Corrections

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Kentucky State Reformatory Receives Perfect PREA Audit Score

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 27, 2016) – Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR) received a perfect score during its Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit. Signed into law Sept. 4, 2003, PREA is intended to address the detection, prevention, reduction and prosecution of sexual harassment and abuse in correctional facilities throughout the country.

"I am very proud of everyone at the Kentucky State Reformatory," said Corrections Commissioner Rodney Ballard. "The PREA audit process gives us an opportunity to demonstrate the zero tolerance standard outlined by our policy and to attain a perfect score of 100 percent shows the true dedication of all the staff at KSR."

The audit team consisted of four PREA auditors, all from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. The audit itself, including the tour and interviews, confirmed that staff and inmates at KSR knew and practiced the written policy.

The audit team said it was extremely pleased with responses of the correctional officers and other staff interviewed. The impression given was one of understanding of the training they had received regarding PREA and the importance of their interactions with the inmate population.

"After eight years of PREA audits, KSR is by far the most responsive institution I have ever audited," said Audit Chairwoman Trish Brockman-Bernhards.

"Given the well-documented staffing crisis that KSR has been dealing with over the past several months, the staff still rose to the challenge by not only passing our inaugural PREA audit, but exceeding expectations put before them," said Warden Aaron Smith. "This is just a tremendous testament to their professionalism and dedication, and I couldn't be prouder of our team."

PREA audits consist of 43 national standards that ensure compliance with all facets of this federal legislation. Each of Kentucky's 12 prisons will receive an initial PREA audit within the first three-year audit period that concludes in August 2016, with follow-up audits conducted once every three years on a continuous cycle.

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